

Lobstering Is Prohibited
In The Following Areas:

- **Biscayne Bay/Card Sound Spiny Lobster Sanctuary** (closed only to the harvest of spiny lobster)
- **Everglades National Park**
- **Dry Tortugas National Park**
- **Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary**
The following no-take areas are marked by 30" diameter round yellow boundary buoys.
 - Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs)
 - Carysfort Reef
 - Cheeca Rocks
 - Elbow
 - Alligator Reef
 - Key Largo Dry Rocks
 - Coffins Patch
 - Grecian Rocks
 - Sombrero Key
 - French Reef
 - Looe Key
 - Molasses Reef
 - Newfound Harbor
 - Conch Reef
 - Eastern Dry Rocks
 - Hen and Chickens
 - Rock Key
 - Davis Reef
 - Sand Key
- Special-use Research Only Areas
- Conch Reef
- Looe Key Patch Reef
- Tennessee Reef
- Eastern Sambo
- Ecological Reserves
- Western Sambo
- Tortugas (Final boundaries will be set and designation completed in the late summer or fall of 2000. Contact a Sanctuary office for details. Phone numbers are listed on the back of this brochure.)
- **John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park**
 - All of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park is closed during the two day Sport Lobster Season to the harvest of spiny lobster.
 - During the Regular Lobster Season no person shall harvest any lobster species from or within any coral formation (patch reef).
 - The following areas are closed during all seasons:
 - Turtle Rocks
 - Basin Hills North
 - Basin Hills East
 - Basin Hills South
 - Higdon’s Reef
 - Cannon Patch
 - Mosquito Bank North
 - Mosquito Bank South East
 - Three Sisters North
 - Three Sisters South

Facts For All Seasons:
What To Know Before You Go. . .

Bag Limits: The federal bag limit cannot be combined with the state bag limit.

Possession: Lobster must be of legal size before they are in possession. For example, lobster in your catch bag in the water are considered in possession. NOTE: You may not have lobster in your possession in Everglades National Park.

Egg-bearing (berried) spiny lobster and ridged slipper lobster (also commonly known as shovelnose or bulldozer lobster) must be released unharmed. Stripping eggbearing females of eggs, and possession of spiny or ridged slipper lobster tails from which eggs have been removed is prohibited. Eggs are an orange, yellow, brown, or red mass found covering the under-side of the lobster’s tail.

Gear such as spears, hooks, wire snares, and any device which could puncture the shell of the lobster is prohibited.

“Bully-netting”: Using a circular frame attached at a right angle to the end of a pole and supporting a conical bag of webbing is permitted. Possession of bully nets is prohibited in Everglades National Park.

“Hoop-netting”: Using a frame, circular or otherwise, supporting a shallow bag of webbing and suspended by a line and bridles. The net is baited and lowered to the ocean bottom, to be raised rapidly at a later time to prevent the escape of lobster. Possession of hoop nets is prohibited in Everglades National Park.

License Requirements: Recreational harvesters are required to possess a valid Florida Saltwater Fishing License with a current crawfish endorsement. Consult your license agent for exemptions to licensing requirements.

Spanish and slipper lobster are closed to harvest in Key Largo and Looe Key Existing Management Areas, Everglades National Park, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Dry Tortugas National Park, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Ecological Reserves, Sanctuary Preservation Areas, and Special-use Research Only Areas.

Commercial Lobster Traps: It is a felony to molest, damage, or take lobster from traps in state or federal waters.

Dive Flag: In state and federal waters, all divers and snorkelers in the water are required to post a diver down flag. Lower your dive flag when divers are out of the water. Slow down and watch carefully for divers.

Coral is protected from damage and taking in state and federal waters.

*This is not an official publication of
lobster season rules and regulations.
For more information:*

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	
Bureau of Marine Enforcement	(800) DIAL FMP (800) (342-5367)
Marathon Office	(305) 289-2320
Regulations Information	(800) ASK-FISH (800) (275-3474)
Report violations on a cell phone:	*FMP *367
Division of Marine Fisheries	(850) 487-0554

National Marine Fisheries Service
(813) 570-5326
(305) 743-3110

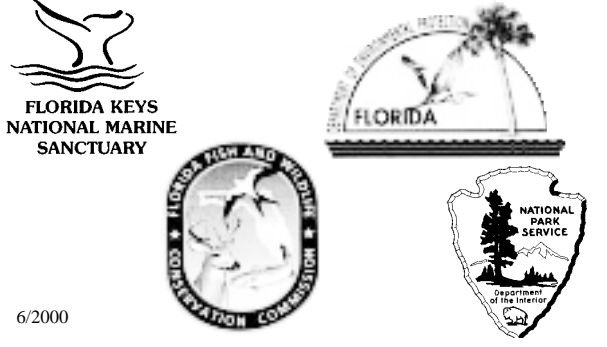
John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park
(305) 451-1202

Everglades National Park
24-hour Dispatch (305) 242-7700
(305) 242-7740

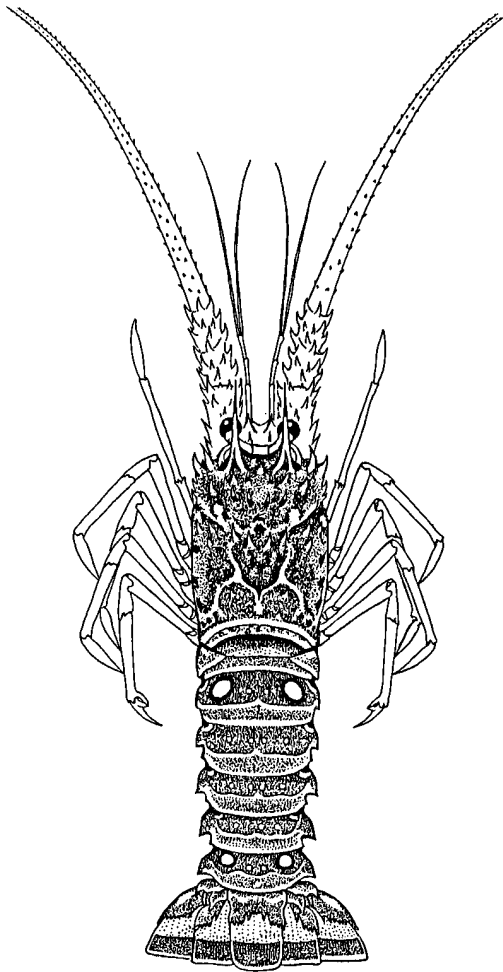
Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges
(305) 872-2239

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Upper Keys Office (305) 852-7717
Marathon Office (305) 743-2437
Lower Keys Office (305) 292-0311

Visit our Websites!
www.fknms.nos.noaa.gov
www.nmfs.gov/
www.dep.state.fl.us
www.nps.gov/ever/
www.state.fl.us/fwc/marine



Regulations for
Recreational Harvest
and
Lobster Information
For
Monroe County,
Florida



Florida Spiny Lobster (Crawfish)
Panulirus argus

Sport Season

State and Federal Waters

The two day Sport Lobster Season is always the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July.

Begins at 12:01 a.m. on the last Wednesday in July.
Ends at 12:00 midnight on the last Thursday in July.

Bag Limit: Six (6) per licensed harvester per day. The two-day total of twelve lobster per licensed harvester in Monroe County can only be possessed when transporting your catch by car on, or after, the second day.

Diving at night for lobster is NOT permitted in Monroe County. Bully-netting and hoop-netting is permitted at night. “Night” is 1 hour after official sunset to 1 hour before official sunrise.

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 - Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs)
 - Special-use Research Only Areas
 - Ecological Reserves
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Regular Season

The Regular Lobster Season is always August 6 through March 31.

Begins at 12:01 a.m. on August 6.
Ends at 12:00 midnight on March 31.

State Waters

Bag Limit: Six (6) per person per day or twenty-four (24) per boat, whichever is greater.
Example - If there are one to four licensed harvesters in one boat, the bag limit is twenty-four (24) lobsters per boat. If there are five licensed harvesters in one boat, the bag limit is thirty (30) lobsters (or 6 per person).

Boundary: All waters surrounding the Florida Keys out to three (3) miles on the Atlantic side and out to nine (9) miles on the Gulf side are state waters. See NOAA chart for official boundary.

Diving at night for lobster is permitted in state waters.

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- **John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park**
 - During the Regular Lobster Season no person shall harvest any lobster species from or within any coral formation (patch reef).
 - The following areas are closed to the harvest of any lobster species:

• Turtle Rocks	• Basin Hills North
• Basin Hills East	• Basin Hills South
• Higdon’s Reef	• Cannon Patch
• Mosquito Bank North	• Mosquito Bank South East
• Three Sisters North	• Three Sisters South

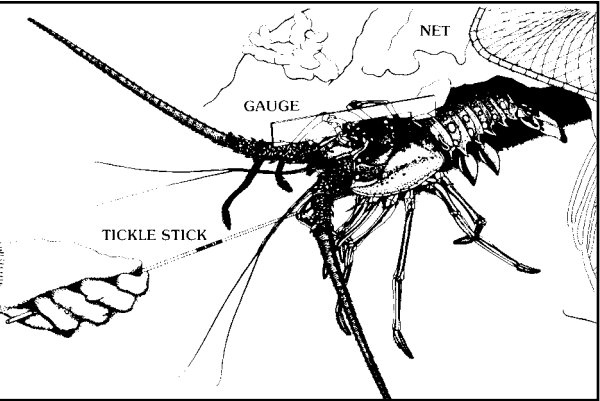
Federal Waters

Bag Limit: Six (6) per person per day.

Boundary: Federal waters begin from the the most seaward point of land (such as islands) at three (3) miles on the Atlantic side and nine (9) miles on the Gulf side. See NOAA chart for official boundary.

Diving at night for lobster is permitted in federal waters.

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Measuring Lobster

- ✓ Each harvester must have a gauge made for measuring lobster while harvesting in the water.
- ✓ All lobster must be measured in the water and released unharmed if undersized.
- ✓ Lobster carapace must be greater than three (3) inches.
- ✓ All lobster must remain in whole condition while at sea unless harvested pursuant to a federal permit.
- ✓ Tails can only be separated on land. When the tail is separated from the body, it must be greater than 5 1/2 inches.

Lobster carapace must be greater than three (3) inches.

